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United Nations

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination

Forty-ninth session
(8 June-2 July 2009)

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Chapter I
Organization of the session

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination held its organizational session (1st meeting) at United Nations Headquarters on 30 April 2009 and its substantive session from 8 June to 1 July 2009. It held a total of 11 meetings and a number of informal consultations.

A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the forty-ninth session, adopted by the Committee at its organizational session (1st meeting), is contained in annex I.

Selection of reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

3. At its 1st meeting, on 30 April, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the note by the Secretariat (E/AC.51/2009/L.2), containing the information that there were no relevant reports of the Joint Inspection Unit available for consideration by the Committee.

4. At its 2nd meeting, on 8 June, the Committee was further informed, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) and General Assembly resolution 59/267, that no relevant reports of the Joint Inspection Unit would be available for the forty-ninth session.

Programme of work

5. At its 2nd meeting, on 8 June, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation (E/AC.51/2009/L.1/Rev.1) listing the documents for consideration by the Committee.

6. Also at its 2nd meeting, the Committee had before it an informal paper setting out a tentative and provisional programme of work for its forty-ninth session. The Committee approved the programme of work for the first two weeks of the session, with the understanding that adjustments would be made by the Bureau, as necessary, during the course of the session.

B. Election of officers

7. At its 1st meeting, on 30 April, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Hendrik Ockert van der Westhuizen (South Africa) Chairman of the Committee for the forty-ninth session.

8. Also at its 1st meeting, the Committee elected, by acclamation, the following members of the Bureau for the forty-ninth session: Vice-Chairmen: Igor Krasnov (Belarus) and Stefania Rosini (Italy); and Rapporteur: Javad Safaei (Islamic Republic of Iran).

9. At its 2nd meeting, on 8 June, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Samer S. Alouan Kanafani (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the forty-ninth session.

10. The members of the Bureau for the forty-ninth session of the Committee are:

Chairman:
Hendrik Ockert van der Westhuizen (South Africa)

Vice-Chairmen:
Igor Krasnov (Belarus)
Stefania Rosini (Italy)
Samer S. Alouan Kanafani (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)

Rapporteur:
Javad Safaei (Islamic Republic of Iran)

C. Attendance

11. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented on the Committee:

Argentina
Armenia
Bangladesh
Belarus
Brazil
Central African Republic
China
Comoros
Cuba
France
Guinea
Haiti
India
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Niger
Nigeria
Pakistan
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
South Africa
Spain
Ukraine
Uruguay
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Zimbabwe

12. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Algeria	Morocco
Austria	Namibia
Benin	Senegal
Botswana	Singapore
Cameroon	Slovakia
Colombia	Switzerland
Croatia	Syrian Arab Republic
Germany	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Japan	
Latvia	United States of America
Mexico	

13. The following funds and programmes were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

United Nations Population Fund

World Food Programme

14. Also present at the session were the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services; the Controller; the Director of the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination; the Director of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa; the Director of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; and other senior officials of the Secretariat.

D. Documentation

15. The list of documents before the Committee at its forty-ninth session is set out in annex II.

E. Adoption of the report of the Committee

16. At its 11th meeting, on 1 July, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Committee (E/AC.51/2009/L.4 and Add.1-10).

17. Before the adoption of the draft report, the Secretary of the Committee orally corrected addendum 6 to the report (E/AC.51/2009/L.4/Add.6).

18. The Committee adopted the draft report on the work of its forty-ninth session (E/AC.51/2009/L.4 and Add.1-10), as orally corrected.

19. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to entrust the Chairman of the Committee for the forty-ninth session to bring to the attention of the General Assembly the issue of the reallocation of the eight weeks allotted to its sessions during a biennium between the budget and off-budget years.

20. Before the closure of the session, statements were made by the representatives of Nigeria, Italy, Argentina, China, Jamaica, Belarus and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Chapter II
Programme questions

A. Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 and proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011

21. At its 9th meeting, on 16 June, the Committee considered the consolidated report on the changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/64/73 and Corr.1), and the consolidated report on the changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (A/64/74). The Committee also had before it the strategic framework for the period 2010-2011 (A/63/6/Rev.1) and the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (A/64/6 (Sect. 28C) and A/64/6 (Sect. 29)).

22. Representatives of the Secretary-General introduced the consolidated reports and responded to queries raised during their consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

23. The view was expressed that while some of the proposed changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 and to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 were minimal, others were significant. Clarification was sought as to the underlying reasons for the proposed revisions, given that the objectives of the Organization under the reported activities largely remained unchanged. Clarification was also sought as to why the programme narrative in some budget fascicles of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 with respect to certain expected accomplishments and indicators of achievements differed from the strategic framework for the period 2010-2011 as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/224.

24. With respect to subprogramme 3, Human resources management, of programme 24 of the strategic framework, support was expressed for ensuring the best performance of staff and the efficient functioning of the Organization through the flexible implementation of human resources policies, the effective development of staff skills and the implementation of the new policy set out in General Assembly resolution 63/250 on human resources management. Support was expressed for and importance attached to the new system of administration of justice approved by the Assembly in its resolution 63/253. The view was expressed that those two resolutions should be included in the list of legislative mandates under subprogramme 3.

25. It was emphasized that gender and geographical balance were important issues and that efforts made to achieve such balance should be in accordance with Article 1, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations. The view was expressed that, instead of engaging external contractors and consultants, efforts should be made to improve recruitmen to attract better-qualified candidates and to create a more qualified cadre of staff.

26. With respect to the new component, Human resources information systems, under section 28C, Human resources management, of the proposed programme

budget for 2010-2011, the view was expressed that the new component should play an active role in human resources management and provide greater operational support in the delivery of programmes.

27. With regard to subprogramme 5, Information and communications technology strategic management and coordination, and subprogramme 6, Information and communications technology operations, of section E, Office of Information and Communications Technology, of programme 24 of the strategic framework for 2010-2011 (see A/64/74), views were expressed that the establishment of the Office of Information and Communications Technology under a separate budget section would bring new vigour to information and communications technology in support of the mandates of the Organization. The view was also expressed that the new expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement under subprogramme 5 needed further clarification.

28. Concern was expressed that the United Nations website was not always easily accessible for Member States, and that improvements to the website were needed in that regard.

Conclusions and recommendations

29. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the changes to the biennial programme plan reflected in the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 as contained in the consolidated report of the Secretary-General (A/64/73 and Corr.1), subject to the following modifications:**

Programme 24
Management and support services

Section A
Headquarters

Subprogramme 3
Human resources management

Component 2: strategic planning and staffing (previously recruitment and staffing)

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Redesignate expected accomplishment (b) as indicator of achievement (a) (v) and amend it to read as follows:

> **"(a) (v) Increased number of young professionals recruited through improved and more extensive outreach for the Secretariat as a whole".**

Redesignate expected accomplishments (c) and (d) as expected accomplishments (b) and (c).

Indicators of achievement

Redesignate indicator of achievement (b) as indicator (a) (vi) and amend it to read as follows:

"(a) (vi) Increased number of recruitments of qualified candidates identified through national competitive recruitment examinations at the Secretariat".

Redesignate indicators of achievement (c) (i), (c) (ii) and (d) as indicators of achievement (b) (i), (b) (ii) and (c).

Strategy

In the second sentence, delete the words "as described in his report entitled 'Investing in people' (A/61/255 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1) and".

Section E
Office of Information and Communications Technology

Subprogramme 5
Information and communications technology strategic management and coordination

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace expected accomplishment (a) with the following:

"(a) Improved review of all information and communications technology initiatives and operations of the Secretariat in accordance with the terms of General Assembly resolution 63/262".

At the beginning of expected accomplishment (b), insert the words "Planning and" before the word "Development".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator of achievement (a) with the following:

"(a) Increased number of information and communications technology initiatives and operations reviewed".

In indicator of achievement (b), replace the words "new services" with the words "applications and services and increased infrastructure", and redesignate it as indicator of achievement (b) (i).

Add a new indicator (b) (ii) reading as follows:

"(b) (ii) Increased number of Organization-wide applications".

Add a new indicator (b) (iii) reading as follows:

"(b) (iii) Increased number of systems consolidated in central data centres".

Subprogramme 6
Information and communications technology operations

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace expected accomplishment (b) with the following:

"(b) Development and implementation of a standardized global service catalogue to improve services provided by the Office of

Information and Communications Technology and other relevant information and communications technology units in meeting the strategic goals of the Organization".

Replace expected accomplishment (c) with the following:

"(c) Standardized service and project delivery processes to be aligned with best practices".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (b), insert the word "standardized" before the words "expected service levels".

Replace indicator of achievement (c) (ii) with the following:

"(c) (ii) Increased number of knowledge management, resource management and infrastructure management projects developed and implemented".

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 3
Human resources management

Under "*General Assembly resolutions*", add resolutions 63/250, Human resources management; 63/253, Administration of justice at the United Nations; and 63/271, Amendments to the Staff Regulations.

30. **The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly approve the changes to the biennial programme plan reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 as contained in the consolidated report of the Secretary-General (A/64/74), subject to the following modifications:**

Programme 24
Management and support services

Section A
Headquarters

Subprogramme 3
Human resources management

Component 2: strategic planning and staffing (previously, recruitment and staffing)

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator of achievement (a) (v) with the following:

"(a) (v) Increased number of recruitments of qualified candidates identified through national competitive recruitment examinations at the Secretariat".

Strategy

In the second sentence, delete the words "as described in his report entitled 'Investing in people' (A/61/255 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1) and".

Section E
Office of Information and Communications Technology

Subprogramme 5
Information and communications technology strategic management and coordination

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace expected accomplishment (a) with the following:

> **"(a) Improved review of all information and communications technology initiatives and operations of the Secretariat in accordance with the terms of General Assembly resolution 63/262".**

At the beginning of expected accomplishment (b), insert the words "Planning and" before the word "Development".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator of achievement (a) with the following:

> **"(a) Increased number of information and communications technology initiatives and operations reviewed".**

In indicator of achievement (b), replace the words "new services" with the words "applications and services and increased infrastructure", and redesignate it as indicator of achievement (b) (i).

Add a new indicator (b) (ii) reading as follows:

> **"(b) (ii) Increased number of Organization-wide applications".**

Add a new indicator (b) (iii) reading as follows:

> **"(b) (iii) Increased number of systems consolidated in central data centres".**

Subprogramme 6
Information and communications technology operations

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace expected accomplishment (b) with the following:

> **"(b) Development and implementation of a standardized global service catalogue to improve services provided by the Office of Information and Communications Technology and other relevant information and communications technology units in meeting the strategic goals of the Organization".**

Replace expected accomplishment (c) with the following:

> **"(c) Standardized service and project delivery processes to be aligned with best practices".**

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (b), insert the word "standardized" before the words "expected service levels".

Replace indicator of achievement (c) (ii) with the following:

> **"(c) (ii) Increased number of knowledge management, resource management and infrastructure management projects developed and implemented".**

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 3
Human resources management

Under "*General Assembly resolutions*", add resolutions 63/250, Human resources management; 63/253, Administration of justice at the United Nations; and 63/271, Amendments to the Staff Regulations.

31. **The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly further review the logical framework for the Office of Information and Communications Technology in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 to more accurately reflect the terms of Assembly resolution 63/262.**

32. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly consider the logical framework for the enterprise resource planning system in the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.**

33. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that the logical framework under subprogramme 6 of section E, Office of Information and Communications Technology, of programme 24, Management and support services, as revised by the Committee, would be equally applied to section B, United Nations Office at Geneva, section C, United Nations Office at Vienna and section D, United Nations Office at Nairobi, of programme 24, as appropriate.**

B. Evaluation

1. Strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy

34. At its 3rd meeting, on 9 June, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy (A/64/63 and Corr.1).

35. The Officer-in-Charge of OIOS introduced the report and representatives of OIOS responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

36. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the report and noted that evaluation was an important and crucial function for the Organization. Evaluation

was seen as playing a significant role in balanced and timely decision-making, enhancing programme design and delivery, and contributing to transparency and the correct application of rules. It was noted that evaluation enabled Member States to carry out a systematic review of programme results. Concerns were raised regarding the continued inadequacy of evaluation capacity, despite an increase in budgets; nevertheless, more recent improvements in the evaluation function were noted and appreciated.

37. Delegations raised a number of issues related to several broad areas. Questions were raised regarding the capacity of OIOS to plan and carry out evaluation and OIOS responded with an explanation of its risk assessment methodology for work planning, in which programmes were numerically ranked according to their aggregated scores on 12 proxy risk indicators. It was further noted that the goal of OIOS was to provide independent evaluation of each programme approximately every eight years. Regarding the methodology utilized for the report under discussion, questions were raised related to the sample of the reports used to conduct the analysis, the methods of analysis and the types of report reviewed. A representative from OIOS explained the methodology used to identify and review evaluation reports from the biennium 2006-2007 and the steps taken to ensure that the sample of reports used for the analysis was representative of all Secretariat programmes subject to evaluation in that biennium. It was also noted that the reports reviewed included both external and internal evaluations.

38. Delegations also queried some of the findings from section III.A of the report, on the synthesis and summary of evaluation reports. A representative of OIOS explained that most of the evaluations that had been reviewed were not conducted by OIOS, but that OIOS had assessed the key findings and conclusions emanating from evaluation reports conducted in the biennium 2006-2007 that pertained to the eight organizational priority areas. Further points raised by delegations related to overall evaluation capacity. It was explained that evaluation budgets in the Secretariat did not meet generally recognized benchmarks, that staff competencies in evaluation methodologies and protocols were not adequate and that several large departments still lacked a fully sufficient evaluation function, if they had one at all. Delegations also expressed concern regarding the inadequate attention given to impact and results in the evaluations OIOS reviewed. It was explained that this was a weakness in the evaluation function of the Organization and a challenge faced by all evaluation offices, including OIOS. OIOS noted that it was seeking ways in which to strengthen its own capacity to provide rigorous and credible assessments of programme impacts.

Conclusions and recommendations

39. **The Committee agreed that the meaning of "takes note" in relation to OIOS recommendations on evaluation reports should be understood in the context of General Assembly decision 55/488.**

40. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that evaluations are used to contribute to and improve future policy decisions by programme managers.**

41. **The Committee selected the programme evaluation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for its consideration at its fifty-first session, in 2011, and the thematic evaluation of Department of Peacekeeping Operations**

and Department of Field Support cooperation with regional organizations for consideration by the relevant intergovernmental body.

42. **The Committee recommended that, in future, OIOS assess the quality of self-evaluation reports submitted for its review.**

43. **The Committee recommended that OIOS continue to improve and refine the methodology for conducting its evaluations in order to draw more meaningful inferences and conclusions.**

44. **The Committee recommended that OIOS draw the attention of the various secretariats to the imperative of impact assessment and in-depth evaluation of their programmes in accordance with extant rules and regulations.**

45. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that relevance and impact are the major focus when performing self-evaluation.**

46. **The Committee welcomed the report of OIOS on the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme, design, delivery and policy directives, and reaffirmed its recommendation contained in paragraph 37 of its previous report (A/63/16), taking into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 63/276.**

47. **The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that, in order to achieve evaluation results in the most efficient and effective way, coordination among all activities is properly guaranteed by all the relevant departments.**

2. Evaluation of United Nations support for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and Africa

48. At its 5th meeting, on 10 June, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of United Nations support for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and Africa (E/AC.51/2009/2).

49. The Officer-in-Charge of OIOS introduced the report and representatives of OIOS, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

50. Delegations expressed appreciation for the report and agreed with certain findings in it, specifically the misalignment between expectations, capacities and accountability arrangements, the need for enhanced coordination and the potential for a better formulated framework for strategic planning and monitoring. All delegations emphasized the importance of the two programmes under evaluation and of the wider United Nations support to Africa and countries with special needs. While some delegations agreed that the report highlighted areas for further discussion with the aim of improving effectiveness, a number of delegations expressed objections to one conclusion of the report, which concurred with the Secretary-General's proposal for an alignment of the functions of the Office of the

Special Adviser on Africa and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. They also noted with concern that it was beyond the mandate of OIOS to make such recommendations. They reiterated the request that the Secretary-General comply with the resolutions of the General Assembly and urgently fill the position of the Special Adviser on Africa as a matter of priority.

51. A number of delegations noted with concern the low response rates for the surveys utilized in the evaluations, which affect the validity of the inferences and conclusions that could be drawn from the evaluations. In response, OIOS explained that every effort had been made to ensure that the data-collection process was transparent and open to a wide range of stakeholders at the Headquarters, regional and subregional levels. In addition, OIOS had sought data from multiple sources to form a broad view during the evaluation. A number of delegations were of the view that the multiple sources of data referred to by OIOS amounted to only two overall sources: the Secretariat and Member States. Delegations also requested further information in some areas, including the current status of the interdepartmental task force, the modalities used by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in engaging donor countries and raising extrabudgetary resources and the analysis of the quality of indicators of achievement. The representatives of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States provided updated information in this regard. The interdepartmental task force met at the principal and technical levels separately, and had recently been active in coordinating the organization of the high-level meeting on Africa. The Office of the High Representative carried out fund-raising bilaterally in order to fund the travel of representatives of the least developed countries to attend the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council and when organizing special events.

Conclusions and recommendations

52. **The Committee recognized that the establishment of the Office of the Special Adviser and the Office of the High Representative had brought about increased attention at the global level to the respective categories of countries in need.**

53. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure coordination and synergy in the area of overlap between the Office of the High Representative and the Office of the Special Adviser in order to achieve results in the most effective way.**

54. **The Committee expressed concern that the assessment by OIOS of the Office of the High Representative and the Office of the Special Adviser disregarded the relevant mandates of the two Offices and resolutions of the General Assembly and regretted that OIOS had expressed support for the Secretary-General's proposal for an alignment of functions between the two Offices when the Assembly had decided not to approve that proposal.**

55. **The Committee reiterated the view of Member States, as expressed in relevant resolutions, that alignment of the two Offices would weaken the United**

Nations focus on the special needs of the countries for which they had been established.

56. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide an update regarding the filling of the position of Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa in the context of his next report on the New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support.**

57. **The Committee stressed the urgent need to fill the position of Special Adviser on Africa, and in that regard recalled General Assembly resolution 63/260, by which the Assembly had decided not to abolish the post of Special Adviser, and recommended that the Assembly reiterate its request to the Secretary-General to urgently fill the position of Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa, as a matter of priority, by 31 December 2009.**

3. Triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its forty-sixth session on the in-depth evaluation of political affairs

58. At its 4th meeting, on 9 June, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-sixth session on the in-depth evaluation of political affairs (E/AC.51/2009/3).

59. The Officer-in-Charge of OIOS introduced the report, and representatives of OIOS and the Department of Political Affairs responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

60. Delegations expressed appreciation for the report and remarked upon the importance of an independent evaluation of the Department of Political Affairs as the focal point for mediation and conflict prevention in the United Nations system. The Committee noted that all 10 recommendations in the report of OIOS on the in-depth evaluation of Department of Political Affairs regional divisions (E/AC.51/2006/4) had been endorsed by the Committee at its forty-sixth session, and that 4 of the 10 recommendations had been implemented by the Department. Delegations noted that the Department should make additional efforts to implement the remaining six recommendations, especially given the 49 additional posts approved by the General Assembly.

61. Delegations noted the finding by OIOS that the recommendation to strengthen cooperation with regional organizations, which would be beneficial to the Department of Political Affairs, should be implemented. Delegations also noted that the conflict prevention strategy outlined by the Department had not been endorsed by the General Assembly and asked OIOS to clarify its judgement that the recommendation to execute a strategy had been implemented. It was explained that because the Department had articulated a clear role for its conflict prevention strategy, it was deemed to have been implemented; however, it was the prerogative of the Assembly to assess whether the strategy was satisfactory. Delegations also raised questions about the recommendation to conduct an independent external evaluation of the Department's Trust Fund for Preventive Action and the Trust Fund for Special Political Missions and Other Activities. It was explained that OIOS had

made that recommendation because sufficient monitoring and evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of the trust funds had not been undertaken and that OIOS lacked the resources necessary to carry out an evaluation of the trust funds. Several other questions seeking clarification on the report were raised by member delegates, to which OIOS gave responses.

Conclusions and recommendations

62. **The Committee questioned the appropriateness of the view expressed by OIOS in paragraph 45 of its report and requested the General Assembly to recall the need for the Office to refrain from value judgements on issues that are still under consideration by the Assembly.**

63. **The Committee recommended that OIOS fully take into account the decision of the General Assembly on the strengthening of the Department of Political Affairs when evaluating the future implementation of the OIOS recommendations endorsed by the Committee at its forty-sixth session.**

64. **The Committee recalled the recommendation made in paragraph 387 of its report on its forty-sixth session (A/61/16), and recommended that the General Assembly reiterate its request to the Secretary-General to conduct an independent external evaluation of the Trust Fund for Preventive Action and the Trust Fund for Special Political Missions and Other Activities to assess their effectiveness, efficiency, relevance and impact, as well as their management and operations.**

65. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly welcome the coordination between the Department of Political Affairs and regional organizations, such as the African Union and European Union, and request the Secretary-General to take into account the provisions of resolution 63/261 when initiating and/or strengthening the relations between the Department of Political Affairs and other regional organizations.**

4. Triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its forty-sixth session on the thematic evaluation of knowledge management networks in the pursuit of the goals of the Millennium Declaration

66. At its 4th meeting, on 9 June, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its forty-sixth session on the thematic evaluation of knowledge management networks in the pursuit of the goals of the Millennium Declaration (E/AC.51/2009/4).

67. The Officer-in-Charge of OIOS introduced the report, and representatives of OIOS responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

68. Delegations expressed appreciation for the report and noted the importance of knowledge management to the Organization. The point was made that the Committee had endorsed only five recommendations on knowledge management (see A/61/16, para. 377), and that therefore the triennial review should report on the status of implementation of only those five recommendations.

69. Regarding the status of the knowledge management strategy being developed by the Working Group on Knowledge Management, which is led by the Office of Information and Communications Technology, the Committee was informed that the strategy was expected to be completed by the end of July 2009.

70. Queries were raised regarding the remaining obstacles to knowledge management. A representative of OIOS responded that the obstacles related broadly to the lack of a supportive knowledge management culture and the lack of mechanisms and tools to facilitate the sharing and use of knowledge. Regarding the lack of incentives and rewards, OIOS explained that senior managers acknowledged the importance of knowledge-sharing and recognized it in performance appraisals. It was noted that while staff should be designated to be responsible for knowledge management activities, this should not lead to the creation of new posts. In response to further queries related to the roles that could be played by different United Nations entities, a representative of OIOS explained that the Knowledge Management Service of the Office of Information and Communications Technology could serve as the lead office for knowledge-sharing in the Secretariat, but that the Dag Hammarskjöld Library played an important role as a member of the Working Group and through its leadership on information-sharing initiatives. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination also played a significant role in coordinating the various knowledge management activities being undertaken in the Organization.

Conclusions and recommendations

71. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly note with appreciation the work done by the new Working Group on Knowledge Management under the leadership of the Office of Information and Communications Technology.**

72. **The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that the placement of the Knowledge Management Service in the Office of Information and Communications Technology does not result in an overemphasis on technology at the expense of other equally important components of knowledge management.**

5. Thematic evaluation of lessons learned: protocols and practices

73. At its 3rd meeting, on 9 June, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the thematic evaluation of lessons learned: protocols and practices (E/AC.51/2009/5).

74. The Officer-in-Charge of OIOS introduced the report and representatives of OIOS responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

75. Delegations noted the significance of learning lessons as an important means of strengthening the activities of the Organization and also noted that the OIOS report provided a clear and valid analysis of this topic. Concerns were raised regarding the current inadequacy of learning lessons and the lack of a systematic and regular approach. It was also noted that since evaluations tended to focus less on results and impact than on projects and programme design, the opportunity for

using evaluation as a learning lessons tool was diminished. It was further noted that while learning lessons was important, it should not lead to the creation of an additional layer of bureaucracy. Regarding the timing of the OIOS report, it was explained that, although the Committee had requested that the report be considered at its forty-eighth session in 2008, owing to the subsequent change in the Committee's schedule resulting in its consideration of evaluation reports every other year, the report had been issued as a management report in 2008 and presented to the Committee at its forty-ninth session in 2009.

76. Delegations expressed an interest in what steps had been taken to strengthen learning lessons, and a representative from OIOS informed the Committee that it was being addressed as part of ongoing initiatives to strengthen knowledge management, including the development of a knowledge-management strategy for the Secretariat. With regard to the variable response rates for the surveys conducted for the evaluation, it was explained that, in drawing its conclusions and recommendations, OIOS relies on multiple sources of data, not only from surveys. With regard to the Secretary-General's proposed accountability framework (A/62/701 and Corr.1) addressing some of the issues raised in the OIOS report, it was noted that this framework had not been approved by the General Assembly.

Conclusions and recommendations

77. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the report of OIOS on the thematic evaluation of lessons learned: protocols and practices.**

78. **The Committee noted with concern that the report of OIOS had been issued as an internal management report before being considered by the Committee.**

79. **The Committee recognized that activities related to learning lessons have helped staff to improve the work environment, including knowledge-sharing, foster teamwork, strengthen outputs and promote efficiency.**

80. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to define the "lessons learned" concept in order to develop a framework for the collection and sharing of lessons learned.**

81. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that lessons learned are widely disseminated and used for future planning.**

82. **The Committee recognized the importance of evaluations as an important tool for learning lessons. In this regard, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly request that the Secretary-General ensure that findings and recommendations derived from evaluations are disseminated, discussed and acted upon.**

83. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to examine ways to enhance the role of coordination bodies within the Secretariat in facilitating the sharing of lessons learned among programmes.**

84. **The Committee recognized the importance of sharing lessons learned and highlighted that, in the pursuit of that goal, an increase in bureaucracy should be avoided.**

85. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to consider, in the context of the implementation of Assembly resolution 63/276, ways for Member States to have systematic access to lessons learned.**

6. Thematic evaluation of United Nations coordinating bodies

86. At its 7th meeting, on 11 June, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the thematic evaluation of United Nations coordinating bodies (E/AC.51/2009/6).

87. The Officer-in-Charge of OIOS introduced the report, and representatives of the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Department of Political Affairs and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

88. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the substantial and timely report, emphasizing its valuable information and analytical content. They noted the finding that the seven coordinating bodies reviewed by OIOS were most effective in aligning policies, in facilitating the coordination of programme planning and in sharing information. Delegations also expressed concern that these bodies were less effective in coordinating programme delivery and strengthening organizational performance. It was observed that the impact of the coordinating bodies on the coherence of programme implementation was minimal, and that there was persistent risk that coordination goals would not be achieved.

89. Delegations noted the need for strengthened coordination among the coordinating bodies, better supervision of these bodies, and more systematic follow-up to their decisions. Concern was also expressed that Member States were not always sufficiently well informed about Secretariat initiatives that led to changes in the management of the United Nations, including that of coordinating bodies. In that regard, it was noted that dialogue with intergovernmental bodies needed to be strengthened.

90. It was stressed that coordination systems needed to be clear, pragmatic, transparent and accountable. It was pointed out that the existing coordination structure in the United Nations was not optimal and did not achieve the main goal of strengthening the practical aspects of the Organization's work. There was a need for simplification of the coordinating bodies' structure. Delegations acknowledged the demanding environment the coordinating bodies were working in, making it challenging to ensure coherence and complementarity while enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations.

91. Representatives of the Department of Political Affairs and of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs addressed the OIOS recommendation that a merger of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security and the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs be considered as part of the review of the

Secretary-General of the mandates and composition of the four original executive committees. They explained that humanitarian and political considerations might be two sides of the same discussion, but that they needed to be kept separate. Clarification was requested from the secretariat of CEB as to whether the strengthening of the role of the Board would improve coordination throughout the United Nations system. The representative stressed the need for an increasingly coordinated approach to systemic issues and provided specific examples of success in this regard. Clarification was also sought regarding the agenda-setting of the Senior Management Group. The representative of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General described the specific role and nature of the Senior Management Group as an information-sharing, rather than a decision-making, body. He explained that preparation time for its meetings was significantly shorter than for the other bodies reviewed by OIOS.

Conclusions and recommendations

92. **The Committee recognized the importance of the United Nations coordination bodies.**

93. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of CEB, to invite the United Nations coordination bodies to hold their meetings on a regular and predictable basis.**

94. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of CEB, to invite the United Nations coordination bodies to examine other ways to achieve a better follow-up to their decisions, including a specified time frame with clear deadlines for their implementation, when needed.**

95. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of CEB, to invite the United Nations coordination bodies to further develop mechanisms to regularly and systematically measure their own performance.**

96. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to strengthen coordination and synergy among all the original Executive Committees, while retaining the distinct nature of the mandates of the Executive Committees on Peace and Security and Humanitarian Affairs, taking into account the specificities of their responsibilities and the nature of their work.**

97. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to further enhance the work of United Nations system coordination bodies in order to improve the effectiveness of programme delivery and organizational performance of their member organizations.**

Chapter III
Coordination questions

A. Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2008/09

98. At its 8th meeting, on 12 June, the Committee considered the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2008/09 (E/2009/67).

99. The Director of the CEB secretariat introduced the report and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

100. Delegations thanked the Director of the CEB secretariat for his presentation, expressed their appreciation for the comprehensive annual overview report of CEB for 2008/09 and commended the work of CEB on strengthening coordination within the United Nations system. Delegations also pointed to the positive impact that the CEB review was having on the work of the Board.

101. Delegations noted that the financial and economic crisis affected all countries and had given rise to an increased need for coordination, and, in this regard, welcomed the Board's joint crisis initiatives. Delegations were further of the view that the establishment of a time-bound cluster group to prepare a draft action plan on the contribution that full employment and decent work for all can make to the eradication of poverty, in connection with the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, was timely.

102. Delegations supported the Board's framework for action on climate change and expressed the hope that the United Nations system would intensify its efforts in this regard without neglecting other issues of systemic importance.

103. Support was also expressed for the intention to step up the dialogue between the United Nations system and the Economic and Social Council, and it was hoped that the joint review to be undertaken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the CEB secretariat would lead to the identification of shortcomings in that regard.

104. Several delegations noted the Board's endorsement of the management and accountability framework for the United Nations development and resident coordinator system, including the "functional firewall" for the resident coordinator system, and expressed the hope that this would lead to a more efficient development system. Concerning the "delivering as one" pilots, the experimental and voluntary nature of the projects were highlighted, and it was underscored that any expansion of the pilot exercise should take place after the relevant intergovernmental deliberations and the completion of the independent evaluation called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. At the same time, however, delegations looked forward to the lessons learned from the second round of stocktaking reports from the eight "delivering as one" pilot countries that would be presented in a synthesis report in 2009.

105. Delegations shared the concerns of CEB regarding the safety of United Nations personnel, but also sought information on the change in the security environment. Additional information was also sought with respect to several other areas of the annual overview report, including on the harmonization of business practices in the United Nations system; the parameters for the evaluation of the "delivering as one" pilots; the European Commission, World Bank and United Nations partnership for crisis and post-crisis situations; the feasibility of implementing CEB joint crisis initiatives in response to the financial crisis in the current economic climate; and how to enhance the Board's transparency and accountability to Member States.

106. In responding to comments by delegations, the Director of the CEB secretariat stated that, while further steps could be taken, measures to enhance intergovernmental oversight needed to be in accordance with existing arrangements. All CEB member organizations had their own governing bodies and were thus already subject to intergovernmental oversight and were responsible to their individual governing bodies. Intergovernmental oversight also took place at the level of the Economic and Social Council, to which CEB reported through its annual overview report. Further measures to enhance transparency would be taken, including revamping the CEB website to allow for the better sharing of information and increased transparency.

107. Transparency in the harmonization of business practices was extremely important. That initiative was being driven from within the system to improve the way in which the United Nations operated. While supported by Member States, extrabudgetary resources had been slow in materializing, possibly as a result of the current economic situation, and the process was therefore being taken forward by the system itself, albeit at a pace slower than that originally envisaged. For example, while no comprehensive directory of staff in the United Nations system existed at present, such a directory was close to being developed and would be shared with Member States once finalized. Furthermore, the project on developing a framework for dealing with suspect vendors was moving forward. In that connection, the United Nations Global Marketplace also provided a vast array of information on potential suppliers, including vendors from developing countries.

108. With respect to the Board's joint initiative on the financial and economic crisis, the initiative recognized the need for the United Nations to actively advocate for the commitments made at the Group of 20 Summit in Gleneagles, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to be kept, given the political realities and the impact that the economic crisis was having on developing countries and its serious consequences for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

109. The Director of the CEB secretariat underscored the fact that climate change was a major challenge facing the international community that required an unprecedented level of international cooperation. The CEB climate change initiative that had been launched in 2007 took due account of the effects of climate change on migration.

110. The Director of the CEB secretariat highlighted the pilot nature of the "delivering as one" projects. The triennial comprehensive policy review provided the grounding framework for support of this initiative by the three pillars of CEB, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General on the management process of General Assembly resolution 62/208 (E/2008/49). Discussion on how to proceed with the evaluation of the "delivering as one" projects was under way under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General. The evaluability study undertaken by

the United Nations Evaluation Group at the request of CEB had provided parameters for the evaluation of the pilots and would be made available on the CEB website.

111. Finally, with respect to the safety and security of staff, the heightened concerns were based on ongoing assessments of threats and incidents. The Board's standpoint was, however, that mechanisms should be put in place to allow the United Nations to shift from a "when to leave" to a "how to stay" approach to security management.

Conclusions and recommendations

112. **The Committee took note of the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2008/09 (E/2009/67).**

113. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly bring to the attention of the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of CEB, the need to continue to ensure that the Board enhances its system-wide coordination activity.**

114. **The Committee welcomed the high priority that CEB continued to attach to ensuring the effectiveness and coordination of the United Nations system support for Africa and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and requested CEB to ensure that support for the New Partnership remained a priority for the United Nations system. It encouraged CEB member organizations to further align their priorities with those of NEPAD and to scale up their efforts to support it.**

115. **The Committee recognized the high priority that CEB attached to the global financial and economic crisis.**

116. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly recognize the efforts made by CEB to achieve coordination in the United Nations system and requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of CEB, to enhance the role of the United Nations system, within existing mandates provided by Member States to United Nations system organizations, in dealing with the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development.**

117. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of CEB, to invite executive heads to closely monitor, within existing mandates provided by Member States to United Nations system organizations, the development and social effects of the crisis and its impact on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and of progress in reducing poverty and hunger in developing countries.**

118. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to further enhance the quantity and quality of information on the website of CEB.**

119. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Secretary-General to ensure that the text of the Plan of Action for the Harmonization of Business Practices in the United Nations System, as well as full, detailed and periodically updated information on its implementation, including related costs, are placed on the website of CEB.**

120. **The Committee recommended that the Economic and Social Council request the Secretary-General to initiate a comprehensive evaluation of the management and accountability system of the United Nations development and resident coordinator system, including the "functional firewall" for the resident coordinator system, and to report on the results of such evaluation to the Council during its substantive session in 2012.**

121. **The Committee recommended that the Economic and Social Council request the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the results of the envisaged joint review by CEB and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on options for enhancing the contribution of the United Nations system to the work of the Council.**

122. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of CEB, to encourage the Board to use a balanced approach with regard to setting priorities for the United Nations system in implementing the decisions of Member States.**

123. **The Committee recommended that the Economic and Social Council request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of CEB, to encourage more frequent and substantive dialogue between CEB and the Member States in order to enhance the Board's transparency and accountability to Member States.**

124. **The Committee reiterated its recommendations contained in paragraph 114 of its report on its forty-seventh session (A/62/16) and paragraphs 407 and 408 of its report on its forty-eighth session (A/63/16), in which it stated that any criteria and methodology for the comprehensive evaluation of the eight "delivering as one" pilot projects should first be considered and approved by the General Assembly and that United Nations support to "delivering as one" pilot projects should not prejudice the outcome of the intergovernmental deliberations on system-wide coherence by the General Assembly.**

B. United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

125. At its 5th and 6th meetings on 10 June, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (E/AC.51/2009/7).

126. The Director of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa introduced the report of the Secretary-General and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

127. Delegations expressed appreciation for the informative and comprehensive nature of the report.

128. Strong support was expressed for NEPAD as an Africa-owned and Africa-led development initiative and for Africa's development in general. Delegates noted, with concern, the adverse impact of the global financial crisis on Africa, which was threatening to reverse recent development gains in the continent.

129. Delegations acknowledged the important work done by the United Nations system agencies and departments in support of the implementation of NEPAD, and took note of the progress reported at the ninth meeting of the regional coordination mechanism for United Nations agencies working in Africa. The need to further enhance inter-agency coordination was particularly emphasized. Furthermore, delegates underlined the importance of strengthening monitoring and evaluation, as well as accountability by the United Nations system in relation to support given to NEPAD.

130. Several delegates appreciated the contribution of the United Nations system to preparations for the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs held on 22 September 2008. Responding to a question on the high-level meeting, the Director explained that the entire United Nations system had been actively involved in preparations for the meeting through the effective use of the Interdepartmental Task Force on Africa convened by the Special Adviser on Africa.

131. Noting that a number of challenges remained in many African countries, among them the need to scale up investments into regional infrastructure, increase agricultural productivity, address the adverse impacts of climate change and further strengthen governance, delegates strongly emphasized the need to move from meetings and discussions to results-based action. The Director highlighted the relevance of these meetings as essential components of the preparatory process for specific action to implement NEPAD agendas.

132. The need for adequate financial resources was underlined as a critical precondition to the implementation of NEPAD. The critical role of civil society and the private sector in the implementation of NEPAD was also highlighted. In this regard, the Director explained that civil society was playing an active role in the African Peer Review Mechanism and in other aspects of the work of the African Union.

133. Some delegates underlined the link between peace and development and welcomed the capacity-building support by the United Nations system to African peace and security architecture. In response, the Director elaborated on the support given by the United Nations to the African Union within the framework of the United Nations 10-year capacity-building programme, underlining the focus on conflict prevention.

134. Answering a question on recent developments in the area of environment, the Director explained that African countries were in the process of refining their common position on climate change in preparation for the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009.

135. In regard to the annex on financial and staff resources devoted to Africa, delegates inquired why some agencies and departments had reported lower amounts in 2008 than in 2007, and why the United Nations Development Programme was absent from the table. In response, the Director explained that the early submission deadline for the report had made it difficult for some agencies to submit complete information for 2008.

Conclusions and recommendations

136. **The Committee welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development and requested the General Assembly to endorse its conclusions and recommendations.**

137. **The Committee recalled paragraph 25 of General Assembly resolution 57/300, which established and provided the mandate for the Special Adviser on Africa, and stressed the importance of the reinforcement of advocacy, programmatic and administrative roles to better position the Special Adviser to participate actively in the ongoing processes in support of the development of Africa.**

138. **The Committee recalled General Assembly resolutions 62/224 and 62/236, in which the Assembly called upon the Secretary-General to urgently fill the post of the Special Adviser on Africa at the Under-Secretary-General level. It also recalled resolution 63/260, by which the Assembly decided not to abolish the post of the Special Adviser. The Committee therefore recommended to the Assembly to once more request the Secretary-General to urgently fill the post of Special Adviser on Africa and to provide the General Assembly with an update on progress in that regard.**

139. **The Committee welcomed the consensus political declaration on Africa's development needs (General Assembly resolution 63/1) adopted by a high-level meeting of the General Assembly.**

140. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Special Adviser on Africa to pursue further the renewal of the international community's partnership for Africa's development and to engage all relevant United Nations programmes and regional organizations to fully support Africa's commitments pursuant to resolution 63/1.**

141. **The Committee recognized the adverse impact of the global financial and economic crisis on African countries and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to emphasize mitigation of the impacts of the crisis on African countries when ensuring better coordination among United Nations system organizations.**

142. **Furthermore, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Special Adviser on Africa to closely monitor the development and social effects of the financial crisis and its impact on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa and, through the use of advocacy, coordination and public information activities, to minimize the impact of the crisis on poverty and hunger.**

143. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly invite the entities of the United Nations system to mainstream strategies in support of NEPAD in order to build support among Governments, the donor community, civil society and international organizations for Africa's development, as mandated by resolution 60/265.**

144. **The Committee reiterated its previous recommendation that the General Assembly request the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to ensure that United Nations support for NEPAD moves from debate, assessments and recommendations to tangible action and results in respect of NEPAD projects across the African continent and to report thereon in its next report at the fiftieth session of the Committee.**

Chapter IV

Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee within the framework of its mandate

145. At its 10th meeting, on 18 June, the Committee considered the improvement of its working methods and procedures within the framework of its mandate.

146. The Committee had before it a compendium of its conclusions and recommendations on the item from the thirty-eighth to forty-eighth sessions.

Discussion

147. Delegations expressed the view that the working methods of the Committee had been greatly improved in recent years. The outcome of the forty-seventh session, in particular, had represented a breakthrough after years of arduous negotiations. It was important for the Committee to acknowledge and endorse that outcome.

148. Given the satisfactory state of the working methods, the view was expressed that no substantial changes to those methods could be envisaged at present and that, consequently, the item should no longer be formally maintained on the agenda of the Committee each year. Instead, time that was currently being spent discussing working methods could be used for the consideration of substantive matters.

149. Delegations were also of the view, however, that the Committee must nevertheless maintain constant attention as to the improvement of its working methods and practices. If it were to decide not to include the item in its agenda for subsequent sessions, the Committee should agree on a method whereby any member could raise important matters or new proposals relating to working methods as and when needed. Options would be to change the periodicity of the item, including it in the agenda in alternate years, to have Committee members raise issues regarding working methods under an agenda item entitled "Other matters" or to discuss the relevant matters under the agenda item entitled "Adoption of the agenda and organization of work", which could be taken up by the Committee at any time during its session.

Conclusions and recommendations

150. **The Committee reaffirmed its role as the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and coordination.**

151. **The Committee recognized the importance of improving its working methods within the framework of its mandate and expressed satisfaction with all efforts made and progress achieved in that regard.**

152. **The Committee reaffirmed the conclusions and decisions adopted at its forty-seventh session.**

153. **The Committee decided not to include the agenda item entitled "Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination" in future sessions, and also decided to discuss related matters under the agenda item entitled "Adoption of the agenda and organization of work" as and when needed.**

Chapter V

Provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Committee

154. In pursuance of paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50, the Committee shall submit to the Council and to the Assembly, for their review, the provisional agenda for its fiftieth session, together with the required documentation.

155. In its decision 1983/163, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions were adopted, any request for documentation that exceeded the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within its approved resources, and to draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation was likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that dealt with related or similar themes might exist, with a view to rationalizing documentation.

156. The provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Committee is set out below. It has been prepared on the basis of existing legislative mandates and will be completed at the end of the present session in the light of the recommendations adopted by the Committee.

157. At its 11th meeting, on 1 July, the Secretary of the Committee orally corrected the provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Committee.

Provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
   (a) Programme planning;

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2012-2013: part I, plan outline, and part II, biennial programme plan (General Assembly resolutions 59/275 and 63/247)

   (b) Programme performance;

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on programme performance for the biennium 2008-2009

   (c) Evaluation.

   Documentation

   Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations of the in-depth evaluation of political affairs (General Assembly resolutions 61/235 and 62/224 and E/AC.51/2007/L.4/Add.4)

4. Coordination questions:

   (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;

   Documentation

   Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2009/10

   (b) New Partnership for Africa's Development.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (General Assembly resolution 59/275)

5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.

6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-first session.

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fiftieth session.

Annex I

Agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
   (a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 58/269, 62/224 and 63/247);
   (b) Evaluation.
4. Coordination questions:
   (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;
   (b) New Partnership for Africa's Development.
5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.
6. Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate.
7. Provisional agenda for the fiftieth session.
8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-ninth session.

Annex II

Documents before the Committee at its forty-ninth session

A/63/6/Rev.1	Strategic framework for the period 2010-2011
A/64/6 (Sect. 28C)	Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011: Office of Human Resources Management
A/64/6 (Sect. 29)	Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011: Office of Information and Communications Technology
A/64/63 and Corr.1	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives (General Assembly resolution 62/224)
A/64/73 and Corr.1	Report of the Secretary-General: consolidated report on the changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (General Assembly resolutions 58/269 and 62/224)
A/64/74	Report of the Secretary-General: consolidated report on the changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (General Assembly resolutions 58/269 and 62/224)
E/2009/67	Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2008/09 (Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX))
E/AC.51/2009/1	Annotated provisional agenda of the Committee for Programme and Coordination
E/AC.51/2009/2	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on evaluation of United Nations support for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and Africa (General Assembly resolution 61/235)
E/AC.51/2009/3	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-sixth session on the in-depth evaluation of political affairs (General Assembly resolutions 61/235 and 62/224)
E/AC.51/2009/4	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-sixth session on the thematic evaluation of knowledge management networks in the pursuit of the goals of the Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 61/235)

E/AC.51/2009/5	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the thematic evaluation of lessons learned: protocols and practices (General Assembly resolution 61/235)
E/AC.51/2009/6	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the thematic evaluation of United Nations coordinating bodies (in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244 and 59/272) (General Assembly resolution 61/235)
E/AC.51/2009/7	Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (General Assembly resolutions 59/275, 62/224 and 63/247)
E/AC.51/2009/L.1 and Rev.1	Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation
E/AC.51/2009/L.2	Note by the Secretariat: reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) and General Assembly resolution 59/267)
E/AC.51/2009/L.3	Note by the Secretariat: provisional agenda and documentation for the fiftieth session of the Committee (Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII))
E/AC.51/2009/L.4 and Add.1-10	Draft report of the Committee on its forty-ninth session

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